GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3714
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Offloading of Surplus Stock
Charitra Shri Ram;Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the country is holding excess foodgrain stocks worth nearly Rs.50,000 crore over and above the stipulated buffer limits and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government was able to offload less than 2 million tonnes out of the 15 million tonnes earmarked for liquidation, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government had constituted an inter-ministerial group to work out the strategy for offloading the excess stock to contain inflation and reduce storage costs;
(d) if so, whether the said interministerial group has made any recommendations including formulation of new buffer norms; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a): The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.12.2015 was 36.83 million tons as against the foodgrains stocking norms for Central Pool (Buffer Norms) of 30.77 million tons for October-December quarter.
(b): During the current year, Government of India has allocated 60.69 million tons of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), natural calamities etc. This includes additional allocation of 5.2 million tons of foodgrains allocated during 2015-16 for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Government has also sold a quantity of 2.94 million tons of foodgrains during 2015-16 under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) through e-auction.
...2/-
...2...
(c) to (e): In order to review and recommend revised foodgrains stocking norms for the Central Pool, a Technical Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (F&PD) had been constituted. Based on the recommendations of this Committee the Government has approved and revised the foodgrains stocking norms in January, 2015. Government has also constituted a Committee comprising of Secretaries of Government of India, to make recommendations regarding quantity & price at which foodgrains stocks in central pool over and above the stocking norms, are to be offloaded through open sale in domestic market or through exports. As already mention above Government has sold a quantity of 2.94 million tons of foodgrains till 14.12.2015 during 2015-16 under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) through e-auction.
****